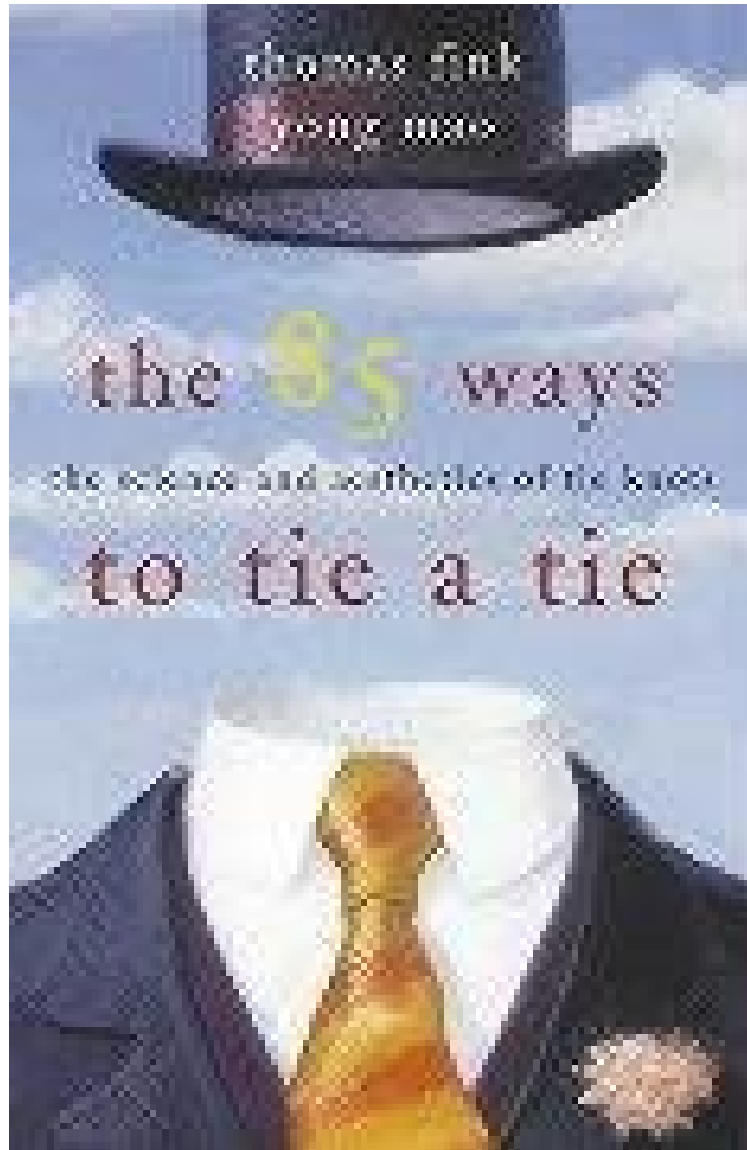


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The 85 Ways to Tie a Tie: The Science and Aesthetics of Tie Knots

Thomas Fink, Yong Mao

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Thomas Fink, Yong Mao : The 85 Ways to Tie a Tie: The Science and Aesthetics of Tie Knots before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The 85 Ways to Tie a Tie: The Science and Aesthetics of Tie Knots:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy sherpresPerfect2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent ConditionBy Anon A MouseMy boyfriend loved it. He loves gadgets and this kind of made his everyday tie into a gadget. The book was listed as "like new" and that's exactly what it was. I couldn't find anything

wrong with it. I never would have bought this book at its list price of \$60.00+. So, if you can find it used and you have someone in your life who enjoys wearing a suit and tie, go for it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By BoomBoomtotally fun read..love giving as gifts to young men

Two physicists prove that there are not just four ways to tie a tie, but a further 81. *Tie Knots* unravels the history of ties, the story of the discovery of the new knots and some very elegant mathematics in action. If Einstein had been left alone in Tie Rack for long enough perhaps he would have worked it out : why do people tie their ties in only 4 ways? And how many other possibilities are there? Two Cambridge University physicists, research fellows working from the Cavendish laboratories, have discovered via a recherche branch of mathematics - knot theory - that although only four knots are traditionally used in tying neck ties another 81 exist. This is the story of their discovery, of the history of neck ties and of the equations that express whether a tie is handsome or not. Of the 81 new knots, 6 are practical and elegant. We now have somewhere else to go after the Pratt, the Four-in-Hand, the Full and Half Windsor. Sartorial stylishness is wrapped effortlessly around popular mathematics. A concept developed to describe the movement of gas molecules - the notion of persistent walks around a triangular lattice - also describes the options for tie tying. Pure maths becomes pure fashion in a delightfully designed little package from Fourth Estate.

From *Scientific American* New ways of tying a necktie appear rarely. Some 50 years passed between the introduction of the Windsor knot and the arrival of the Pratt knot in 1989. "Rather than wait another half-century for the next knot," Fink and Mao write, "we considered a more formal approach." And so they present 85 tie-tying techniques, each one shown in a drawing with instructions on how to achieve the desired result. They also offer a brief history of neckwear and photographs of famous figures wearing ties, among them Fred Astaire in a four-in-hand, Frank Sinatra in a Windsor knot and the Duke of Windsor not wearing a Windsor. But, being research physicists at the University of Cambridge, the authors are interested in more than sartorial versatility. They deal also with knot theory and topology. For the reader who wishes to probe tie-tying that deeply, they represent "knot sequences as random walks on a triangular lattice." EDITORS OF SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN "In an elegant world, an irreproachable tie knot is an essential part of one's toilette; it does not matter whether the knot is simple or complicated, because the art is what counts. There are some knots which seem casual in appearance, but which have taken considerable labour before the mirror, and many a stamped foot, many an exclamation of impatience."-- Doctor A. Debray *Hygiene Vestimentaire*, 1857 From the Inside Flap Until 1900 there was only one. In the 1930s, Edward, the Prince of Wales, became the unwitting embodiment of two more, even though he in fact wore neither. It was not until 1989 that a fourth became popular. Throughout the 150-year history of the modern tie, only four tie knots have been recognized. That is, until now. In this history of and guide to tie wearing, Thomas Fink and Yong Mao trace the peculiar evolution of the knotted neckcloth from the seventeenth century to its modern form. These two Cambridge physicists applied a model more often used to describe atomic motion to the twists and turns of this central item of men's dress. They discovered eighty-five ways to tie a tie, thirteen of which survived their aesthetic test, and earned their recommendation. The result is a rich blend of history, science, fashion, and practicality that will become the must-have accessory for all well-dressed men. Wonderfully illustrated and wittily written, this little classic of sartorial elegance will charm and inform in equal measure.